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TAGS: PREL PGOV SP IS

SUBJECT: SPAIN'S POLICY ON HAMAS

REF: SECSTATE 27174

Classified By: POLCOUNS Kathy Fitzpatrick for reasons 1.4 (B)&(D).

(C) The Ambassador took the opportunity of previously scheduled meetings with Spanish President Zapatero on February 21 and Deputy Foreign Minister Bernadino Leon on February 22 to urge Spain to adhere to Quartet conditions on contacts with Hamas (reftel; other issues from the meeting will be reported septel). Zapatero confirmed that Spain would follow the Quartet's lead. Leon told the Ambassador that he and National Security Adviser Carles Casajuana had just met with senior Israeli MFA representatives to discuss the Hamas situation. Leon said that he and Casajuana told the Israelis that Spain agrees that Hamas must meet the three Quartet conditions (renounce violence, recognize right of Israel to exist, and abide by previous PA agreements.) He also said that Spain will not have contact with Hamas until these conditions are met. The Spanish press reported on the Leon meeting with the Israelis along the same lines. AGUIRRE